

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CU-06 HA-05 COME-00 /092 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JCKORNBLUM

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM: SJLEDOGAR

EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY

EUR/P:WGHEHORN

-----009200 240116Z /21

O R 240102Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 047611

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF PORTION OF DEPARTMENT PRESS

BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 23

FYI: FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSCRIPT OF PORTION
OF FEBRUARY 23 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING WHICH COVERED
CSCE.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE BELGRADE
CONFERENCE, WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE SATISFIED
WITH A BRIEF CONCLUDING STATEMENT THAT DIDN'T MENTION
THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS?

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A: I'M NOT GOING TO USE THIS WHOLE GUIDANCE, BUT I'LL
TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT GENERALLY BECAUSE I THINK THIS IS
TOO LONG. CLEARLY, AS YOU KNOW, WE OFFERED WITH OUR
ALLIES A DECLARATION AT THE END FOR USE AT THE END OF
THE CONFERENCE. CLEARLY, SINCE WE OFFERED ONE, AND WE
WOULD HAVE PREFERRED AND WOULD PREFER A MORE COMPREHENSIVE
STATEMENT ON WHAT WAS DONE AT BELGRADE AND WHAT WE INTEND

TO DO IN THE FUTURE.

HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT THE SPECIFIC INTENT OF THIS MEETING TO COME UP WITH A NEW DOCUMENT TO REPLACE OR TO SOMEHOW SUPERSEDE THE ORIGINAL HELSINKI DOCUMENT. THE POINT OF THIS IS THAT WHAT WAS CALLED FOR IN THE ORIGINAL HELSINKI AGREEMENT WAS IN FACT TO REVIEW HOW THE SIGNATORIES HAD BEHAVED IN RELATION TO THE ORIGINAL HELSINKI DOCUMENT -- TO REVIEW, IN OTHER WORDS, COMPLIANCE AND COOPERATION IN EFFECTING IT. THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT SOME CONSIDERABLE LENGTH IN THE LATTER MONTHS OF 1977.

WE BELIEVE THAT THAT WAS A VERY THOROUGH REVIEW. WE ARE ALSO CONFIDENT THAT WHATEVER THE FORM OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE MAY BE THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER MEETING, A FOLLOW-ON REVIEW MEETING AT SOME POINT IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE, AND THAT THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A REVIEW OF A NUMBER OF MATTERS IN ALL THREE BASKETS WHICH WERE AGREED TO BY OVER 30 NATIONS.

Q: WELL, GETTING BACK TO MY QUESTION, WILL THE UNITED STATES NOW BE SATISFIED TO END THE CONFERENCE WITH A SHORT AND --

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A: WELL, I DON'T THINK "SATISFACTION" IS THE WORD. I REPEAT: WE OFFERED SEVERAL OF OUR ALLIES A TEXT WHICH WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED. WE ALSO, OBVIOUSLY, WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE IT. AS YOU KNOW, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO HAVE AT BELGRADE A CONSENSUS. THAT MEANS ANY PARTY WHATSOEVER THERE CAN BLOCK SOMETHING THAT IT DOESN'T WANT, AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO ACCEPT ANY OF THE COMPROMISE PROPOSALS FOR AN OVERALL STATEMENT.

THEREFORE, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THE MEETING IS GOING TO CONCLUDE WITHOUT A SUBSTANTIVE FINAL DOCUMENT. IF THAT IS SO, IT WILL NOT BE BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT TRIED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO GET ONE.

Q: CAN'T YOU ISSUE A MINORITY STATEMENT?

A: I HAVE A FEELING THAT ANY NUMBER OF THE PARTIES THERE CAN SORT OF COME OUT WITH STATEMENTS WHICH ARE UNILATERAL. I DON'T KNOW TO WHAT END. BUT, I MEAN, WHETHER THAT WOULD BE A DECISION --

Q: SURE.

A: -- AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT EACH OF THE AMBASSADORS
WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE A SUMMARY STATEMENT IN ONE
WAY OR THE OTHER.

Q: HODDING, ON THE SAME GENERAL TOPIC, IN THE
CURRENT ISSUE OF COMMENTARY, WALTER LAQUER ACCUSES THE
ADMINISTRATION OF HAVING SOFTENED ITS STAND IN FAVOR
OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIS-A-VIS THE EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES, AND HE SPECIFICALLY IS CRITICAL OF THE
STAND ON SCHARANSKY. AND HE STATES THAT THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT HAS NOTIFIED THE SOVIET UNION THAT IT
WOULD NOT FAVOR SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF SCHARANSKY.
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YOU KNOW, THEY APPARENTLY WOULD CONDONE SOME
PUNISHMENT OF SCHARANSKY FOR CRIMES UNKNOWN.

IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION, THAT WE ARE TAKING THE VIEW
THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BEHAVING PROPERLY TOWARD
ANATOLE SCHARANSKY?

A: NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT WAS STATED
IN I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AND IN HOW
MANY DIFFERENT FORA AND BY HOW MANY DIFFERENT
REPRESENTATIVES -- FROM ME TO THE SECRETARY HIMSELF
AND TO THE PRESIDENT -- TO MRS. DERIAN WHEN SHE MET WITH
MRS. SCHARANSKY AT THE CDM DINNER. IT HARDLY MATTERS
AT WHAT POINT.

WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT WE VIEW THIS AS
A VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND IT IS NOT A CONDITIONAL
SUPPORT FOR MR. SCHARANSKY AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO PRESS
THIS ISSUE.

NOW, I DON'T HAVE ALL THE LITTLE GUIDANCES IN
FRONT OF ME, BUT I'M CONFIDENT THERE'S NO CHANGE
ON THAT; AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG HAS RAISED THE CASE
SPECIFICALLY, AS HE HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER CASES, AT
BELGRADE, AND IN FACT HAS TAKEN THE LEAD THERE AMONG
THE ALLIES AND OTHERS IN PRESSING VERY VIGOROUSLY ON
THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMPLIANCE OF
THE EASTERN NATIONS GENERALLY AND THE SOVIET UNION
IN PARTICULAR.

Q: HAS OUR AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW MADE ANY
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REPRESENTATIONS ON THAT?

A: AMBASSADOR TOON HAS GONE IN IN THE PAST.
I DON'T KNOW THE LAST TIME HE DID IT, TO BE PERFECTLY
HONEST. I JUST DON'T KNOW THE LAST TIME.

END TEXT. END FYI.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE047611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCKORNBLUM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-0100
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780216/aaaaamue.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ebc38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3484700
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSCRIPT OF PORTION OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 23 FYI: FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSCRIPT OF PORTI
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, CSCE
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ebc38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014